Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/884,393	TENORIO, MANOEL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Naeem Haq	3625	
The MAILING DATE of this communication appea All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (On the previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) of NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIG	OR REMAINS) CLOSED or other appropriate commerces. This application is	ith the correspondence address in this application. If not included	se. THIS he initiative
1. This communication is responsive to 4/12/2006.			
2. ☑ The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-25</u> .			
 Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority und All Some* None Certified copies of the priority documents have to the certified copies of the certified copies of the certified copies are copies. 	peen received. Deen received in Applicati	on No	rom the
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONME THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.	f this communication to fil INT of this application.	e a reply complying with the requirer	nents
 A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitt INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives 	ed. Note the attached EX reason(s) why the oath o	AMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTIC or declaration is deficient.	E OF
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must	be submitted.		
(a) Including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson	n's Patent Drawing Revie	w (PTO-948) attached	
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date			
(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date			
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.8 each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the	4(c)) should be written on a header according to 37 C	the drawings in the front (not the back FR 1.121(d).) of
 DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposi attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FO 	t of BIOLOGICAL MAT OR THE DEPOSIT OF BI	ERIAL must be submitted. Note t OLOGICAL MATERIAL.	he
Attachment(s) 1. ⊠ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	E 🗆 Notice of I	oformal Datast Application (DTO 450	
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		nformal Patent Application (PTO-152	<u>(</u>)
- ,	Donor No.	summary (PTO-413), /Mail Date <u>20060526</u> .	
3. ☑ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No /Mail Date 3/4/04・1/31/95: ₹/6/64・2) 1,6,05	Amendment/Comment	
 Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No./Mail Date 3/4/04; 1/31/05; 8/6/04; 2/4. □ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 	8. 🛭 Examiner's	Statement of Reasons for Allowance	е
of Biological Material	9. ☐ Other	Jeffrey A. Smith Primary Examiner	

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 12, 2006 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Agent Daren Davis on May 25, 2006.

Title (Amended): Distributed processing of sorted search results in an electronic commerce system and method

The claims have been amended as follows:

- in claim 1, lines 3 and 4, delete "the one or more computer systems
 collectively operable to:" and insert, in its place, the following text the
 electronic commerce system further comprising computer-executable
 instructions stored in memory to: --;
- in claim 8, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following text executing computer-readable instructions for processing said search results, said instructions determining: –;
- in claim 23, lines 3 and 4, delete "the one or more computer systems
 operable to:" and insert, in its place, the following text the electronic
 commerce system further comprising computer-executable instructions stored
 in memory to: --;

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-25 are allowed.

The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Statement of allowance is in reference to independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 22-25. All other claims are dependencies of these independent claims.

The present application is directed to a method, system, and computer program for processing search results in an electronic commerce system. A search query of products and sorting parameters are communicated to a plurality sellers. The sellers process the search query and sort the results according to the sorting parameters. The

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sorted search results are communicated back to the system which then merges the results if more than one seller responds with a search result and performs a second sort operation on the merged results according to the sorting parameters. The independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 22-25 recite the uniquely patentable feature of merging sorted results if more than one seller responds with a search result and performing a second sort operation on the merged results in an electronic commerce transaction.

Discussion of most relevant prior art:

The following references have been identified as the most relevant prior art to the claimed invention.

- (i) <u>US 2002/0147704 A1</u> to Borchers. Borchers generally teaches sorting the results of a search query. However, Borchers does not teach or suggest sorting the results according to a sorting parameter that has been communicated to a plurality of sellers. Furthermore, Borchers does not teach or suggest merging sorted results if more than one seller responds with a search result and performing a second sort operation on the merged results in an electronic commerce transaction.
- (ii) <u>Dialog File "Modeling of electronic commerce using mobile agent" by Sohn et al.</u>

 ("Sohn"). Sohn discloses using mobile agents in electronic commerce to reduce the cost of product search. However, Sohn does not teach or suggest sorting search results according to a sorting parameter that has been communicated to a plurality of sellers. Furthermore, Sohn does not teach or suggest merging sorted results if more

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than one seller responds with a search result and performing a second sort operation on the merged results in an electronic commerce transaction.

(iii) <u>Dialog File "Comparison shopping sites emerge as electronic ret" by Monica Summers.</u> ("Summers"). Summers discloses that websites such as MySimon.com and DealTime.com let consumers search for a product from a number of merchants to find the lowest price. However, Summers does not teach or suggest sorting search results according to a sorting parameter that has been communicated to a plurality of sellers. Furthermore, Summers does not teach or suggest merging sorted results if more than one seller responds with a search result and performing a second sort operation on the merged results in an electronic commerce transaction.

(iv) <u>EP 1 359 520 A1 to van der Meulen et al.</u> ("Meulen"). Meulen discloses a system for linking a group of searchable websites. However, Meulen does not teach or suggest sorting search results according to a sorting parameter that has been communicated to a plurality of sellers. Furthermore, Meulen does not teach or suggest merging sorted results if more than one seller responds with a search result and performing a second sort operation on the merged results in an electronic commerce transaction.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naeem Haq whose telephone number is (571)-272-6758. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Smith can be reached on (571)-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Naeem Haq, Patent Examiner

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May 29, 2006